

**THE POCAHONTAS TIMES**

Entered at the Postoffice at Marlinton, W. Va., as second class matter

CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13 1925

The question before the house is which shall be the great north and south highway through the State of West Virginia? It was determined at the beginning that road 3 that named itself the Midland Trail should be the passway through West Virginia east and west, and that road number 2 which has no name should be the north and south road. But it seems that while road number 2 accommodates the great centers of population in West Virginia, that it is not destined to be the highway most popular with the people of other states, those migratory birds of passage, following the sun, seeking peace in the south in the winter and in the north in the summer.

Road 2 really connects the eight largest cities in West Virginia and makes travel easy within the bounds of the State, and as such justifies the policy of the road department. As a matter of fact that is the highest duty that the department is charged with. Road 2 makes it easy to pass and come again for those whose business lies among the cities of Huntington, Wheeling, Charleston, Clarksburg, Fairmont, Parkersburg, Morgantown and Grafton. But as a way to travel through the State north and south, my prediction is that it will give way in importance to the highways that form a continuous thoroughfare along the eastern border of West Virginia. This is the road that enters the State in Preston county, traverses the counties of Tucker, Randolph, Pocahontas, Greenbrier and Monroe, and leaves the State from Mercer county. It is formed by road 58, a part of 59, and all of 24.

It is the terminus of road 1 in Union District, Preston county and intersects number 3 at Lewisburg. It seems to be the most feasible way from the cities of Detroit, Cleveland and Pittsburgh to Florida and other southern states. Through West Virginia it just naturally named itself the Seneca Trail, from the international war road of the Indian nations maintained through the period of many generations when the settlements of the whites were confined by law and treaty to the eastern waters, and all of the western waters were reserved for the Indians.

I have been accused of inventing the Senecas, but that is a figment. The Senecas formed the most powerful tribe of the Iroquois nation, referred to as the five nations. A Seneca was an Iroquois just as a West Virginian is an American. The five tribes forming the Five Nations were and are: Senecas, Mohawks, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Oneidas. The Tuscaroras having been driven from the Cherokee country, down south, moved north and made the sixth nation of the confederacy. It is a notable fact that whereas the Senecas are never forgotten in the lore of this country, it is hard to remember the names of the other five tribes of the Six Nations.

At first the Senecas were unimportant in the Indian nation, having but four villages. About a century after America was discovered, Hiawatha, an Indian chief, conceived the plan of abolishing war by agreement and he spent his life preaching the horrors and uselessness of war. The result of his labor was the forming of a League of Nations, to prevent war and this was the origin of the Five Nations, the most civilized of all the northern tribes of Indians. The Senecas came in last and with reservations. They were the most western tribe and the agreement was that they were to defend the League. They were known in the Indian language as Keeper of the Great Black Doorway, probably suggested by the original name of the Ohio River, then called Mingo River, or Black River. This gave the Senecas the advantage of deciding all those young men of the Iroquois who had a desire to follow the profession of war. And along about 1656, when a great war broke out with the Eries who inhabited a large portion of the Northwest Territory including all of West Virginia, the Senecas conquered the Eries and took all of their territory, and adopted great numbers of the Eries into their tribe. The Eries as a tribe became extinct. From having four villages, at least sixty-five of the Seneca towns can be named. The only one of those names that I recognize as being kept alive is that of Tonawanda, a city in Pennsylvania.

It was about this time that the great war road was formed to mark the border between the reds and the palefaces and it ran from the St Lawrence River to the State of Georgia, and was garrisoned by Seneca towns at least as far south as West Virginia. The town of Mingo, in Randolph county, was one of these garrison towns.

A perfect peace existed between the Senecas and the English people for more than a hundred years and it was under such circumstances that the English formed the thirteen colonies. It started with the agreement between the Five Nations and the Dutch of New York and it was well observed until the tide of immigration broke across the Alleghenies, making a cause for war that resulted in the Revolution and the independence of the people of the United States. In the Revolution, the Iroquois adhered to the British cause, and they were the great sufferers from that conflict, as ever since they have been dependents upon the bounty of the Nation and of England, in Canada. It was the Iroquois who inspired the writings of James Fenimore Cooper, who is the fairest historian that America has ever had, as to the virtues and character of the noble red man.

There are more than a hundred ways of spelling Seneca, as shown by the written records of America. It is probable that Catesby's Senagars is about as good a reproduction of the spoken name as any of them, but

the present spelling is fixed in the annals of the country. It was agreed by the Iroquois, the Shawnees, the Cherokees, the Creeks, and all other Indians of the western waters that travel was to be undisturbed on the War Road, and as far as history serves us, there were no violations of the freedom of this trail on the part of the Indians.

On the breaking out of the Revolution, the Seneca Trail became a matter of the greatest importance to the colonies and a branch of the service was known as Indian spies who were to watch this road and garrison the forts along it. There were at least four such forts in Pocahontas county. It was the violation of the Indian boundaries that brought on the Revolution. The first overt act of the Revolution was the assembling of an army at Lewisburg in Greenbrier county. The Greenbrier Valley was the eastern border of the Indian Reservation. There are two parallel streams in these mountains. Jackson River and Greenbrier River flow from north to south, separated by the main Allegheny and about twenty miles apart. In every respect they would appear to the early explorers that they would eventually reach the sea together, but as a matter of fact the Jackson is the head of the James and enters the sea by way of Chesapeake Bay, and the Greenbrier by way of the Gulf of Mexico. On this false premise, that the Greenbrier River was a part of the eastern waters, the London Council granted the Greenbrier Company the right to colonize the Greenbrier Valley and without waiting for grants to their lands, the pioneers swarmed into the Greenbrier Valley. The scouts of the Indian nation having discovered the trespass about 1751, the complaint was made in London, and deeds were refused for the surveys, and the king issued a royal proclamation, requiring the premature settlers to return. This did not suit their convenience, and there is not a single case recorded where it was obeyed.

This is the first case of successful resistance to the government of England in the colonies. There had been Bacon's Rebellion in 1676, but that had been put down and some twenty odd Virginians hung. One fact alone will convince you that what the mountaineers took we kept. From 1751, the date of the first unlawful survey, to 1777, at the beginning of the Revolution, enough settlers had come to Greenbrier to form a county, the first county to be formed wholly on the Western Waters, with the possible exception of the county of Kentucky.

This brings us to the question of land titles among the Indians. The student will find that while we pride ourselves on having founded our rules on the English common law, that we have much of the doctrine of land tenure of the Indians. The Indians had no written records. Judge Snyder, a citizen of Lewisburg, as a judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals, said that the best land title known to West Virginia was a fenced field. The Indian had the right under his laws to take any part of the public domain not claimed and in possession of any other Indian, and as long as he used that land the title was in him, and his heirs. If abandoned it went back to the public domain. Uncultivated land was divided by natural boundaries and assigned to villages and used for hunting and fishing. This corresponds closely to county seats and counties. Indians maintained their boundary lines by force and by arms. The pioneer shot the needle off the compass.

All lands are held by the power of the existing government. I think that our conquered lands are more to our credit than those obtained by sharp practice and nominal compensation. Especially was our West Virginia title based on slender grounds. The treaty that the Indians thought they signed at Fort Stanwix, was permission to the palefaces to use such amount of land as they might need. Under it we took it all by the terms of the contract.

It also violated the rule promulgated by Tecumseh, that all of the wild lands of the Northwest Territory was held in common by all tribes occupying the same and that a treaty with any one tribe was no more than a quit claim.

Indians were good farmers of the intensive order. They raised millions of bushels of corn. They gave to the world the greatest of cereals, corn, and the Milan apple. Corn is king, and we owe it to the Indian. Taking it all in all we get more lore in the country from Indians than we do from Europe. In the days of Jamestown and Powhatan, the Indian was a superior man to the peasant of England. He lost his high estate through the whiskey of the conqueror.

The proudest thing that I am of, is the fighting records of our ancestors. Others may revere their parlor tricks, but for me, I justify the conquest of the western waters just as the Bible justifies the conquest of the land of Canaan. We came here and we stayed.

And as for the western borders, ye shall even have the great sea for a border: this shall be your west border. Even as the Lord spake unto Moses, so it was with the pioneer

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when he made the first breach into the Greenbrier Valley. They were headed for the ocean and did not it. We have let the plausible New England historian steal the glory that is ours. It is capable of demonstration that Lewisburg is the incubator of American freedom.

Having moved into this valley and been commanded to return, the mountaineers are to be credited by a passive resistance to the faraway government of England. The time was soon to come when it was necessary to resort to the arbitrament of arms.

The year 1774, saw great numbers of surveyors laying off lands in West Virginia and in the county of Kentucky. The Ohio Indians under Cornstalk commenced to assemble an army to put the pioneers over the border and away from the Indian reservation. Appeals for an army to meet them were denied by the House of Burgesses. Three counties were affected. Augusta, Botetourne, and Fincastle. Fincastle included what was afterwards the county of Kentucky. Dunmore, the Governor of Virginia, highly incensed by the refusal of the House of Burgesses to authorize war, wrote to the county lieutenants to assemble an army and meet the Indians, and appointed the place of rendezvous, a place where a big spring flowed in the great savannah of the Greenbrier Valley. The Augusta county men came down the Seneca Trail from the place called Greenbrier, now called Marlinton. The Fincastle men came north on the trail down the waters of the Bluestone, by William Lafferty's plantation, on New River, around the waters of Big and Little Stony Creeks, by the headwaters of Indian Draft, a branch of Indian creek, and by the headwaters of Wolf Creek, to the headwaters of Laurel Run. The Botetourne men were the men of the Greenbrier Valley with some from beyond the mountains around the town of Fincastle. They organized an army at Lewisburg by the big spring, elected Andrew Lewis, commanding officer, and marched to Point Pleasant another place in Botetourne county, and defeated Cornstalk in a pitched battle, and invaded Ohio in the spirit of American independence, and against the law of England. And sent word to the Continental Congress to observe that Americans could take care of themselves in our emergency.

It was the first defiance that America made to England in the chain of circumstances leading up to the declaration of independence. Another thing that the mountaineers yielded to in the assignment of the glory of victory, was the weak submission by which the people of eastern Virginia claimed the victory at Point Pleasant and the fruits of Indian war. Because Dunmore had helped to defy the government of England and had acted on his own impulse, West Virginia has shown weakness in honoring the noble act of Lord Dunmore who backed us to the limit of his ability.

The time was to come when Gen. Lewis was to meet the English troops at Great Bridge and chase Dunmore from Virginia, but the fact remains that Dunmore was the friend of the men of the borderland. We have erected a monument to Cornstalk. And we have erected monuments to the men who fought at Point Pleasant but we have ignored Dunmore who set us on the road to glory.

In 1777, the county of Greenbrier was formed with the following boundaries: Beginning at the top of the ridge which divides the eastern from the western waters where the line of Augusta and Botetourne crosses the same, thence with the line between the counties north and fifty-five west to the Ohio River at the mouth of the Little Kanawha, thence down the Ohio River to the mouth of the Great Kanawha, thence with the Kanawha River and the New River to a point opposite the end of Peters Mountain, thence with the top of Peters Mountain to a point near Sweet Springs, thence passing Sweet Springs to the top of the Allegheny Mountain, and with same to the point of beginning.

In 1722, under Queen Ann, a treaty was entered into Virginia and the Great Men of the Five Nations that thereafter no Indian of the Five Nations was to hunt or travel south of the Potomac River or east of the Great Ridge of Mountains, without a passport. The penalty was death or slavery in the West Indies.

as the governor and council should determine. This was in pursuant to the division of lands which had then existed for so many years. In a like manner and under like penalty, the Indians living within the boundaries of Virginia were forbidden to cross the dead line this established.

It was this treaty that made the Seneca Trail a fixture on the western border and nowhere did it touch any waters flowing into the ocean that bordered Virginia.

It appears to have followed the Monongahela River from Pittsburgh, to the mouth of the Youghiogheny, and with that river to the headwaters, and from thence to the waters of Greenbrier River to its mouth, and thence with the waters of Bluestone River to its head in Tazewell county, in Virginia, and thence south.

Now with the adjustment of the highways occasion by the new departure in the problems of transportation by the invention of the automobile, we find that whatever action authorities take in the matter, that the contour of the country, and the troughs of the Alleghenies, divert the traffic that was intended for the more favored roads, to the old Seneca Trail route. It works like the law of gravity. Its unseen forces lead the migratory hordes by ways that they know not, like the tribes in the wilderness.

Four rivers lie end to end: The Youghiogheny, the Cheat, the Greenbrier, and the Bluestone. These ways are ways of pleasantness. Lewisburg as the crossing point where the Seneca Trail intersects the Midland Trail is about to be brought into the light.

Man is ever restless at home and prone to range. Take a position in Lewisburg and soon or late you will see most of the inhabitants of this country.

**Trustee's Sale**  
By virtue of a deed dated on the 3rd day of April, 1924, made by Rosalia Chiarochi (Mrs. Tony Spatone, but who under the Italian custom holds property in her maiden name) and Tony Spatone, her husband, and of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, in Trust Deed Book No. 13, at page 223; I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder on Friday, September 4th, 1925, commencing at one o'clock p. m., of that day, at the Front Door of the Court House of Pocahontas county, three and one half lots situated in the town of Cass, Pocahontas county, West Virginia, on the east side of the Greenbrier River, with the buildings located thereon, and also the counters, cabinets and shelves in said buildings. Which property was conveyed to the said Rosalia Chiarochi by the Finger-Selgel Company by deed dated on the 3rd day of April, 1924, and which deed is recorded in the Clerk's Office aforesaid in deed Book No. 61 at page 448. This property is known locally as the Finger-Selgel Store Building.  
Terms of Sale: Cash on day of sale. This the 10th day of August, 1925.  
L. M. McClintic, Trustee

**FIDUCIARY NOTICE**  
The following is a list of fiduciaries whose accounts are before me for settlement:  
P. T. Ward, guardian of Rhoe J. Webster.  
P. T. Ward, guardian of Lancastis S. Webster.  
J. E. Buckley.

**FIDUCIARY NOTICE**  
The following is a list of fiduciaries are before me for settlement:  
N. C. McNeil, Administrator of Andrew Adkison, deceased.  
Edgar Dilley, Committee of Grace B. Dilley.  
P. T. Ward.

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**Administrator's Notice**  
Notice is hereby given to all persons knowing themselves to be indebted to the estate of N. B. Arbogast, deceased, to make immediate settlement with the undersigned administrator; and all persons holding claims against said estate are requested to present the same to me with full legal proof attached.  
Given under my hand this the 11th day of August, 1925.  
J. T. Hudson  
Administrator of the estate of N. B. Arbogast, deceased.

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**ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to all persons knowing themselves to be indebted to the estate of N. B. Arbogast, deceased, to make immediate settlement with the undersigned administrator; and all persons holding claims against said estate are requested to present the same to me with full legal proof attached.  
Given under my hand this the 11th day of August, 1925.  
J. T. Hudson  
Administrator of the estate of N. B. Arbogast, deceased.

**A. P. EDGAR**  
Attorney-at-Law,  
Marlinton, W. Va.  
Courts: Pocahontas and adjoining counties and the Supreme Court of Appeals

**F. RAYMOND HILL**  
Attorney-at-Law,  
Marlinton, W. Va.  
Will practice in the courts of Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties, as well as the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

**P. T. WARD**  
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